

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Mike Neubeiser and the Northwest High School football team of Germantown, Maryland, who won the Maryland Class 4A State football championship on Friday, December 6th.

With a 33–16 victory over Suitland High School, the Northwest Jaguars capped off a 12–2 season. This is Northwest's first state football championship since 2004 and the first state championship for a Montgomery County high school since 2008.

Even though Coach Neubeiser's team started the season with two losses in their first eight games, the Jaguars turned their season around to win the state title. This improbable turnaround proves that even when faced with adversity, Coach Neubeiser and his staff can inspire these young adults to accomplish great things. Thanks to his leadership, Northwest student-athletes have excelled both on the field and in the classroom. I wish the Northwest Jaguars the best of luck next season as they defend their title.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to draw your attention to a speech given by one of my young constituents, Jonathan Serota of Brookville, NY. Jonathan ran for President of Yale Model Congress and spoke about the need for compromise and commitment to our country. His words are wise beyond his years and all of the members of this chamber would do well to hear them. I'd like to share them with you now and hereby insert Jonathan's speech as follows in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

For 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that

very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That IS what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill."

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress,

we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana," "Make the playing field fairer," "lower taxes," "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

MAG STRITTMATTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mag Strittmatter for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

It takes great strength to face the heart-breaking issues of poverty day after day, and even more strength to lead others in that fight. Leading The Action Center, Mag has that strength in abundance. She has overseen a revolution in volunteer engagement at the Action Center, where more than 7,000 volunteers contribute annually for the good of the community. She has built on-going partnerships with Red Rocks Community College, Jeffco Human Services and the Metro Community Provider Network to bring resources to clients in one location. In her mentoring she can identify strengths and build the organization around them, with the deep wisdom to see

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that each person has an important role. Under her leadership, The Action Center's revenue increased by more than 600% since 2002. Directly affecting the community she serves in such a positive way.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mag Strittmatter for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH WHITE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative Kennedy, Representative McGovern, Representative Neal, and Representative Tsongas rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph White, President of the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts, upon his upcoming retirement.

Mr. White has diligently served the Association for the past forty-five years, and his leadership has guided this organization through many changes. Having retired at the age of thirty-eight from his position as a parole officer in the aftermath of a gunfire assault, Mr. White knew that there was still much for him to give to the Commonwealth. He then began his role of President of the Association. Throughout his tenure, he was instrumental in enacting many key reforms that benefit retirees. Such reforms included raising the pension cost-of-living ceiling, ensuring that retirees' and survivors' health insurance payments remained at a reasonable level, and improving protections for disability retirees. Mr. White has given a great deal to the Association and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and his perseverance has touched many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join us in thanking Mr. Ralph White for his many years of service.

HONORING THE BARBER SHOPPE IN KIRKLAND

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Barber Shoppe in Kirkland on fifty years of successful business. Since it opened in 1964, the Barber Shoppe has been providing the community with quality service and customer care. Their commitment to excellence has ensured that business stays steady in rough economic times and remains a local favorite.

I would like to give special recognition to Bill Bitz, the man who first started the business in the 1960's. Although Bill died last year at the age of 86, his legacy lives on at the Barber Shoppe. Bill instilled a special charm in the family-owned business that is behind its popularity.

Bill's daughter, Brenda Gordon, proudly took over the shop from her father when he retired.

Gordon's training at Folks Barber College in Renton has helped her to continually enhance and improve the shop.

Although the shop now has a new building and a new name, it continues its legacy of classic comfort and high quality care. The Barber Shoppe serves as a role model for many other local businesses that hope to achieve a similar record of success.

I congratulate the Barber Shoppe on all of its accomplishments, and thank it for its contribution to the Kirkland community.

HONORING MR. RAYMOND THOMAS "R.T." RYBAK

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions of R.T. Rybak to the city of Minneapolis during his 12-year tenure as mayor, and to applaud his leadership in areas from education to government accountability to economic opportunity. Mayor Rybak has been an outstanding leader, a great public servant and a close friend.

R.T. Rybak, a Minneapolis native, began his distinguished career as a journalist for the Minneapolis Tribune. While working for various media outlets—including the Twin Cities Reader, Minnesota Public Radio, and Public Radio International—he was also an organizer who ran political campaigns and engaged in community activism. He campaigned for airport noise mitigation, sponsoring the famous "Pajama Protest" of 1999. Mayor Rybak's tactics have been inventive and inclusive, and his openness has made him a strong ally of communities often left out of the political process.

Mayor Rybak confronted a city with serious challenges: an increasing budget deficit, a stark achievement gap, pension issues, and public safety concerns. He went to work immediately, making difficult decisions to adjust taxes and budget priorities. Under his leadership, Minneapolis cut spending by 16 percent and paid down \$350 million of the city's debt, in spite of repeated state-level funding cuts. Faced with crises such as the 2007 collapse of the I-35W bridge, and the 2009 Great Recession, Mayor Rybak helped the city recover with poise and energy. He was a strong advocate for Minneapolis residents, while also using these opportunities to bolster mass transit infrastructure and to further diversify our economy. Minneapolis has recovered all 10,000 jobs lost in the recession, and added an additional 5,000. The city now ranks first in the country for its low unemployment rate, and is less susceptible to future economic fluctuations.

Minneapolis is safer now than it has been in years. Most crimes have fallen to levels not seen in 35 years.

The people of Minneapolis are also more connected and informed. City-wide wireless internet, digital access to government information and services, and a forum for viewing city goals have made Minneapolis more open and accessible.

Mayor Rybak's advocacy for North Minneapolis, in particular, has been long overdue on the city's agenda. He increased city investment in addressing persistent gaps in edu-

cation, housing, and economic opportunity that have faced North Minneapolis for decades. He championed programs that trained residents and placed them into good jobs, working with businesses to create sustainable, meaningful employment. He reduced foreclosures, and used city-owned land to promote affordable green housing. Mayor Rybak has laid the foundation for revitalizing North Minneapolis, and I am confident that our city's future leaders will follow his lead.

Mayor Rybak has also tackled the significant challenges facing Minneapolis schools. He started Minneapolis Promise, which provides young people with free college and career counseling and high-quality summer jobs. Since 2004, the STEP-UP internship program has given real-world job experience to over 18,000 Minneapolis youth. Rybak has led the effort to close one of the nation's widest achievement gaps by connecting schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to work together for our children's futures. This will be one of the lasting achievements he leaves with Minneapolis, as he continues the fight to close the achievement gap as the next Chief Executive of Generation Next.

Minneapolis will always be indebted to Mayor Rybak. From the balanced books of the city's treasurer, to the youth who can aspire to greater opportunity than their parents, to the residents headed to a secure job after months or years out of work, his achievements have improved Minneapolis and I thank him for his tireless service to our community.

LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lakewood High School for their tremendous compassion and character shown during the floods that happened in the State of Colorado in September. This high school located in Lakewood, Colorado must be acknowledged because they showed incredible spirit and support to other schools around Colorado during a time of emergency.

After winning the Good Morning America Katy Perry contest, the students of Lakewood High School used their moment in the national spotlight to direct national attention towards other students throughout the state affected by the floods. There are countless stories of different student groups and organizations within the school sending supplies, money and support to other students who were in need the most. This is exemplary of the character and compassion the faculty instills in the students at this high school.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Lakewood High School in their display of school spirit for their school and also for the State of Colorado. I am certain the students in this school will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

HONORING MICHELLE "MISSY"
PALMISCIANO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Michelle "Missy" Palmisciano is Founder and President of County Harvest—a non-profit food rescue organization she began in 2009 to ensure that good food otherwise being discarded was instead saved and delivered by volunteers to area soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters.

With more than 200 volunteers, and relationships with dozens of County-based agencies and food donor businesses, Missy and her award-winning organization do more than 60 food rescue runs each week and have collected over 1 million pounds of food since County Harvest began feeding thousands of men, women and children every year. County Harvest continually seeks new food donors and agencies throughout Westchester County.

Missy is also a member of the Planning Board for the Village of Pelham Manor and an Advisory Board Member for Community Service Associates in Mt. Vernon. She has served as a Board Member for the Junior League of Pelham as co-chair of Community Outreach, member of the Prospect Hill Site Based Counsel, Board Member of Huguenot Nursery School and various committee roles supporting The Picture House and the Pelham Public Library's Novel Night.

She and her husband James have three children: daughters Jessica, and twins Allison and Sarah. She is being honored by the Pelham Civic Association for her extensive work in helping her community to be a better, and healthier, place to live. I salute her for her good works and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERT AND CAROLYN BLACK OF VALPARAISO, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Robert and Carolyn Black of Valparaiso, Florida. A tireless and dedicated member of my staff who has been with me since the beginning of my time here in Congress, Bob is the epitome of an unwavering public servant, and I am grateful to have known him and his wife Carolyn for over twelve years. I am proud to honor the Blacks and congratulate them on this remarkable milestone.

Bob and Carolyn, both born into military families, have called many places home; however, it was each of their homes in Ohio in the 1960s that would prove to be particularly special to them. Their parents were both stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside of Springfield, OH, and as neighbors, Carolyn was literally "the girl next door." Bob and Carolyn attended the same school, Greenon

High. Bob's wit and intellect won over Carolyn's heart and became a perfect match to her grace and charm. As high school sweethearts, on November 23, 1963, Bob and Carolyn were married.

The son of an Air Force Pilot, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and was commissioned in the United States Air Force. Over the course of the last fifty years since their paths first crossed, Bob and Carolyn's journey would include assignments throughout the U.S. and around the world. Bob was steadfast in his commitment to support the varied missions of the United States, whether it be operating C-130s or C-141s, fulfilling his test pilot obligations, or commanding troops responsible for safe passage of everything from penguins to Presidents. Carolyn, having been daughter to a pilot herself, was equally steadfast in her commitment to the mission of a military wife and mother. She focused her troops on the active exploration of what each new location had to offer, the intentional effort to forge strong relationships with one another, and the importance of an open mind. It is unquestioned that the success of their partnership is possible because of the strength and love Bob and Carolyn share.

Bob's last assignment as the Vice Commander of the Air Force Development Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida brought them to the Gulf Coast in 1992. Bob retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in October 1994, though, with Carolyn's continued support, he continues to contribute to the defense of our country, including his role on my staff as my Senior Military Advisor.

Bob and Carolyn have accomplished much together, but their greatest achievement is their five daughters. They are the proud parents of Christine (and Brian McCann), Shana (and Christopher Swartz), Kelly (and Shawn Swartz), Sarah Kate, and Anna Lauren, and proud grandparents to Jack, Kate, Alden, and Bridget. All five daughters have continued their parent's commitment to family, community and compassion through their professions, such as nursing, medical research and specialty healthcare for Veterans as well as their personal endeavors such as programs for special needs children and Scouting leadership. Needless to say, Bob and Carolyn enjoy spending time with their family and the beauty of the Emerald Coast.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize the dedicated service of Bob and Carolyn to the Northwest Florida community and this great Nation. My wife, Vicki, and I congratulate the Blacks, our dear friends, on their Golden Anniversary and wish them and their family all of God's blessings. May He grant them many more years of good health and happiness.

THOMAS O. BOORMAN

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas O. Boorman, a man who dedicated much of his life to serving others. Thomas spent four years serving on a mine sweeper in the Navy. He went on to serve for twenty-six years in the United States Air

Force, flying over five hundred missions in a B-52.

Upon his retirement from military service, Thomas felt the call to continue serving his community. He first joined the Placer County Sheriffs office and then worked as a control officer at Folsom State Prison.

Thomas Boorman was an avid sportsman and adventurer and a devoted supporter of the Second Amendment. He would speak openly about his love for his country, his community and the unique freedoms that Americans enjoy. His commitment to our freedoms was consistently illustrated by his lifetime of military and public service. Please join me in honoring Thomas Boorman, a man of lifelong service who will be sorely missed by so many.

HONORING THE GLACIER PEAK
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 Glacier Peak High School girls cross country team. On November 9, the Grizzlies repeated as 3A cross country state champions, and I would like to congratulate them on their impressive achievement.

The Grizzlies' championship title is the result of the hard work and strong effort of the entire team. I would like to give special recognition to senior Megan Davis, the team's top finisher at the state competition this year. Megan finished 12th overall with a time of 19:00.13. Beyond Davis, the team's success came from the efforts of freshmen Heidi Smith and Natalie Church, sophomore Charlie Sevenants, juniors Katherine Dittmann and Haley Longstreth, and senior Samantha Northrop.

The Glacier Peak girls cross country team has a legacy of success. Since it was established in 2007, the team has never finished any lower than seventh at the state competition, including three state championships in the past four years.

The Grizzlies' impressive record of success is a testament to their incredible work ethic and the impressive coaching of Dan Parker. Coach Parker has provided the Grizzlies with the encouragement and training necessary for the team to continuously perform at such a high level of competition.

Again, I congratulate the Glacier Peak Girls Cross Country Team on all of their success. Their accomplishments and awards from this season are hard-earned and well-deserved.

CAROL SALZMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carol Salzman for her outstanding service to our community.

Carol began her career as a critical care nurse at Exemplar Lutheran Medical Center in 1978 and is now the executive director of the

ELMC Foundation. Two signature fundraising events she created and leads are the White Rose Evening and the Leaves of Hope Run/Walk, which support Lutheran's hospice and cancer programs respectively. Carol has a passion for community health improvement and serves as the executive lead for Lutheran Medical Center's wellness efforts. She believes that through partnerships with Jefferson County Public Health and other community organization, we can address important community concerns like tobacco and obesity. Carol lives the wellness message and believes in it with all of her heart.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carol Salzman for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

ELAINE CHAPNICK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Elaine Chapnick arrived in Larchmont in 1968 with her husband David and their two children, Adam and Melissa. She joined the League of Women Voters and volunteered to become Executive Director of the New York Council on Children's Television, working with the networks to promote better programming with less commercialism. She also spoke with parent groups throughout the Metropolitan area on how to manage television in their children's lives.

After teaching English for a year at a special fifth grade program at the Murray Avenue School she joined Caroline Silverstone to form a video production company. Their documentary projects included taping the Arts in the Schools program which Lincoln Center had introduced in the Mamaroneck schools. She then ran an after school video club at Chatsworth School.

When her children were in school full time she worked at Newsweek Broadcasting where she developed a pilot children's public affairs program called Periscope. From there she went to the American Lung Association, initiated their anti-smoking campaign and became the Executive Director of Communications.

During this time she served on the Board of the Emelin Theater, on the Board of Larchmont Temple chairing the Adult Education Committee, the Board of LMC-TV that negotiated the original community cable agreement, the Board of Continuing Education, the School Board Selection Committee, and the Hispanic Resource Center, serving as Fund Chair and newsletter editor.

She represented the Village of Larchmont on the county's Community Development Block Grant Committee and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Barnard College where she chaired the Student Life Committee.

More recently she was a reporter covering the Larchmont Village Board meetings for the Larchmont Gazette, was a member of the Human Rights Committee which planned the last five Martin Luther King, Jr. events, serves on the Planned Parenthood Luncheon Planning Committee and is the President of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit.

I congratulate Elaine Chapnick on receiving this year's Sunny Award, created in honor of former LMC-TV President Sunny Yeddis Goldberg, and given to individuals for their dedication and their outstanding contribution to our community.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK FLORES

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Frank Flores, known lovingly by his friends and family as "Apo," "Cabeza," or "Tagasi," who dedicated his life to his country and his family. Mr. Flores was born on October 25, 1950, in Guam. He graduated in 1968 from George Washington High School and enlisted in the United States Air Force and retired in October 1990 at Los Angeles Air Force Base (Space and Missile System Contracting Division) as a Master Sergeant. After his retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Flores continued his service to our country by joining the Veterans Administration, where he performed a number of duties to assist his fellow veterans. During his time at the VA, he rose from a GS 7 Trainee Veterans Benefits Counselor and retired as a GS 13 after just nine years. Mr. Flores served in a number of capacities, including as a Congressional Liaison Officer and as a Decision Review Officer. Following his retirement from the VA, Mr. Flores founded the Project Guiding Light Veterans Volunteer Advocacy Group, an organization focused on helping veterans navigate the benefits process at the VA. The group works closely with veterans and other Veterans Service Organizations to help veterans receive all of the benefits they have earned.

Mr. Flores worked extensively with the National Association of Chamorro Veterans in America (NOCVA), an organization seeking to unite and organize Chamorro veterans across the United States to advocate on behalf of the Chamorro people. The organization, which was founded in 2011, has focused its efforts on honoring Chamorro veterans, and serving as their voice in Washington. The Chamorro ancestry traces back to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Flores spent his entire life serving others, and helped thousands of veterans through his tireless advocacy and dedication. His legacy will endure and serve as an example to us all.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
MAXIMILIAN BANDY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Maximilian Bandy of East Moline, Illinois who passed away on December 5th at the age of 87.

Max Bandy was born on February 1, 1926 in Centerville, Iowa, one of 11 children. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Max worked at Case IH for over 40

years. He stayed active in his community as a union steward and later ran for Alderman of the 6th Ward. He was first elected in 1993 and remained on the City Council until 1999. Additionally, Max served on the board of the Florence Aldridge Child Development Center in East Moline.

Max loved being involved in his community, singing in his church choir and cheering on his Iowa Hawkeyes. He had a large family and was a very proud father, stepfather, uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give my sincere condolences to Max Bandy's family and friends and honor his years of dedicated service to the people of East Moline.

HONORING JERRY FRIEDMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Friedman is a wonderful example of someone who has continually given back to his community over the course of his 85 years.

Jerry was born in Brooklyn on December 9, 1928. He entered the service in 1948, and served in the Army Medical Corps before being discharged as a First Sergeant in 1953. In 1955 he married Lillian and they had two children, Lynn and Stuart, and are grandparents to Sophie and Benjamin.

The family moved to Co-op City and lived there for the next 42 years. There Jerry served on the Board of Directors for six years and was with the Boy Scouts for 20 years, becoming a Scout Master.

He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias for 25 years serving as Chancellor.

Jerry has a long work history with the Gateway Counseling Center where he worked with consumer of mental health services. He was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the Bronx Psychiatric Center, a 360-bed facility accredited by the Joint Commission on Healthcare Organizations and affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Bronx Psychiatric Center has three inpatient services and a comprehensive outpatient program.

Jerry's photography hobby led to his pictures being shown at a variety of venues, including synagogues and senior citizen centers.

I wish Jerry the happiest of birthdays and thank him for his many years of service and his many contributions to the community.

DEAR JON

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Albert Caswell, who has written a poem in honor of Staff Sergeant Jonathan Dozier of the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Dozier was killed in Sinsil, Iraq on January 9, 2008, while serving his country. He was a highly decorated soldier, earning the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his heroic sacrifice and for his commitment to his fellow Americans. He is survived by his wife Amy, their

daughter Emma and his sister Jennifer. As we come upon this holiday season, may we remember Staff Sergeant Dozier and his family, as well as all our veterans and military personnel who have sacrificed so much for this great nation.

DEAR JON

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO WHO GAVE
THAT LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION SSG
JONATHAN KILIAN DOZIER 3RD SQUAD, 2ND
CAVALRY SCOUT SNIPER THE UNITED STATES
ARMY

DEAR JON

Dear!
Dear Jon!
Rest my precious son!
Your war is over,
your fight is won!
And now,
as an Angel in The Army of our Lord your
new charge has begun!
As your soul went Airborne,
with your new wings oh high as won!
To watch over us from dusk to dawn!
To fight the darkness whenever it so forms!
And Jonathan we will miss you so,
now that you are gone!
Dear Jon!
But your life,
and your times within our hearts now so
lives on!
To remind us all,
of America's Best with hearts so very warm!
Dear Jon!
And oh Jon,
what a truly great American Hero you are
my son!
Dear Jon. . . .
for your life was short but like a shining star
shines on!
Of such selflessness,
who our Nation has so blessed!
As Strength In Honor was but your life's
quest!
As your fine soul was built upon the bedrock
of morality,
not to rest!
But For The Greater Good,
as you so gave all that you so could!
That Last Full Measure!
One's Life,
The Greatest of all Treasures!
As the Angels wept!
As they so saw what your fine soul would so
except!
Dear Jon!
For you were Army Strong,
chapter and verse, your song!
Because you stood for Something,
from dusk to dawn!
Airborne!
Ah,
but with such pride that patch was worn!
A Soldier's Soldier!
A Scout Sniper,
who out into the darkness moved on!
A team leader,
from where such inspiration was so formed!
All on your lonesome on the edge!
As you were gone!
Bolder than Bolder!
Bad To The Bone,
damn right just like your Dad a BullDOZIER
who the word courage owned!
A perfect soldier,
who our Lord God soul now so owns!
Dear Jon!
Rest my son!
And your fine wife Amy and daughter Emma,
miss you so with each new morning sun!
Looking into Emma's face,
as it's you we so see my son!
As your beautiful Sister Jennifer's heartache
and tears have begun!
As she carries you in her heart and etched
upon her arm!

And your Mother and Father's pain cannot
so be undone!

Until,
they all so meet you up in Heaven one fine
day Dear!

Dear Jon!

And across Chesapeake this night,
as they lay their heads down to rest . . .
There comes a gentle rain from Heaven up
above,

are but our Lord's gift!

Are his tears to so ease your pain,
that which you are all so left with, all of his
love's!

Until one fine day you all so meet up in
Heaven above!

And you won't have to cry no more!

In life!

Could we?

Would we?

Would we ever the strength to so find?

To live such a selfless life as Jonathan's all
in time!

To fight the darkness and not ask why . . .
Dear Jon!

And now we lay your fine body down to rest!
As all of our tears begin to crest!

For you were one of those the most brilliant,
the best of the best!

Dear Jon!

You have died,

but you are not gone!

All in our souls you live on!

Amen!

BARBARA BROHL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Barbara Brohl for her outstanding service to our community.

As an RTD Board member, Barbara introduced a workforce development program for transit projects promoting the introduction of women in non-traditional positions. Barbara is continuously active in the community—from her “Newborns in Need” baby showers, to her mentoring programs, to the organizations she supports—including The Gathering Place and the Hispanic Advisory Council for Florence Crittenton, an alternative high school for pregnant and parenting teens.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Barbara Brohl for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING JOE RUGGIERO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Joe Ruggiero, the Chief of the Pelham Manor Fire Department, is a lifelong resident of Pelham whose professional commitment to Pelham as a decorated Firefighter and Chief equals his charitable contributions to the countless number of children and their families he has helped.

Joe has dedicated decades using hockey to have a positive impact on community kids. After creating Learn to Play clinics in the

Westchester area, he volunteered to coach in Pelham Youth Hockey's in house and travel programs. Joe continues to make significant contributions to Pelham and the tristate area with his volunteer coaching and administrative league duties with the New York Raptors, a unique program that focuses on providing mentally and physically challenged hockey players with the opportunities to play hockey with games and events that had never been offered to them before.

Because of his extraordinary contributions, he was recently presented at Madison Square Garden with the prestigious 2013 Emile Francis Award for “tireless efforts, sacrifices, dedication and service to youth hockey.” His dedicated commitment for the past 29 years does not stop on the ice as he has been a dedicated member of various charities and altruistic causes and programs such as Ice Hockey in Harlem, Pelham Civic Association's Scholarship committee and as a volunteer with the local Recreation Department.

He and his wife Marcia reside in Pelham, with their three children, Jillian, Christopher, and Alexander, who all were educated in the Pelham School system. I congratulate Joe on his being honored by the Pelham Civic Association for his many years and many contributions to the betterment of life in his community.

EAGLE SCOUT CHANDLER
PRYMOWICZ

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eagle Scout Chandler Prymowicz of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania who earned every possible merit badge recognized by the Boy Scouts of America.

At age 10, Chandler joined Boy Scout Troop 418 in Nanticoke. From his first day as a member of this organization, he was determined to earn every merit badge possible. To accomplish his goal, Chandler attended out of state merit badge colleges, volunteered as a camp counselor at Camp Minsi, and attended Jamboree in 2010. Even after reaching the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 14, he continued to pursue this aspiration. On October 28th, 2013, Chandler completed the Sustainability merit badge, earning him a total of 137 merit badges and 12 palms. Only one out of every 225,000 Boy Scouts is able to achieve this feat. Although he will age out of the Boy Scouts this month, Chandler will stay involved in Scouting by becoming an assistant leader of Troop 418.

Mr. Speaker, for his determination and dedication to earn every available scouting badge, I commend Eagle Scout Chandler Prymowicz and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

MARO DIMMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maro Dimmer

for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

For over 27 years Maro and her husband Ed Dimmer have successfully grown Rheinlander bakery in Olde Town Arvada into the community jewel it is today. The bakery operates with the mission to give back to the community by donating 10 percent of its profits for charitable activities. Maro is instrumental in running the bakery's fundraising events, including the annual King Cakes for A Cause, a benefit for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. With the celebration of Rheinlander's 50th year in business, the bakery raised over ten thousand dollars in their Bake Out Hunger Campaign, benefiting the Arvada Community Food Bank. Maro is a huge advocate of small business development and actively mentors bakeries in the Metro Denver area in addition to her own employees, teaching about inventory, margins, marketing and longevity.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maro Dimmer for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

QUINTEN CURTIS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quinten Curtis, a 4th grade student from Granite Falls, North Carolina, who has truly demonstrated the spirit of Christmas this season. When his mother, Becky, asked for his Christmas list, Quinten requested two things: a clarinet and 100 cans of food for the South Caldwell Christian Ministries.

Quinten has proved that every one of us can have an impact on our community. His dedication to helping others is truly exemplary and he is a role model for children and adults alike. Quentin set a goal of donating 100 cans by Christmas, but so far has collected more than six times that amount. His selflessness is contagious and has motivated others in his community to participate, collecting donations at the First United Methodist Church.

Quinten's generosity is an inspiration to us all this holiday season, exhibiting the true meaning of Christmas.

HONORING WILLIAM ABRAMSON

HON. ELIOT ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, William Abramson was born and raised in the Bronx and today is being honored by the Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council with the Community Builder Award for his commitment to the community.

His commitment is impressive. Bill was President of the Board of Directors of the Riverdale YM-YWHA for four years and is now the Chairman of the Board. He is a Past President of the Benjamin Franklin Reformed

Democratic Club and is presently a member of the Van Courtland Park Conservancy.

He served as Chairman of Community Board No. 8 in the Bronx for three years, and was the impetus for the creation of the 197-A plan, a system by which city agencies and local groups inspire area growth. He received the 2000 David Rockefeller Fellowship for helping to develop top private sector leaders and engage them in New York City's public arena. He is also Vice President of the Union Square Partnership, and a member of The Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and Village Alliance.

He has been selected several times as "Commander for the Day" by the Policeman's Association and "Principal for a Day" by PEN-CIL. Mayor Bloomberg appointed Bill to the Workforce Investment Board, where he is on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Bill is an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching Facility Management and Leadership in Management. Bill has served as president of his condominium board in Riverdale for over five years. He has done numerous residential and commercial deals, serving on Real Estate Board of New York's, REBNY, Residential Rental Committee, and REBNY's Retail Committees.

Bill is committed to making a positive difference in his community, the places he works at, and the people he works with and for. It is my pleasure to join with the Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council in honoring Bill Abramson with the Community Builders Award for his years of dedicated service to his community and his city.

HONORING HIS EMINENCE
FRANCIS EUGENE CARDINAL
GEORGE, O.M.I., ON THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis Cardinal George on the 50th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Yesterday I joined more than 100 bishops from around the world and hundreds of members of the Chicago Archdiocese in congratulating Cardinal George as he celebrated this milestone with a Mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois where he has served as leader of the Archdiocese for almost 17 years. Francis Eugene George was born in 1937 to Francis and Julia George on Chicago's Northwest side. He grew up there with his older sister Margaret and attended St. Pascal School. At the age of 13 he was diagnosed with polio, and to this day wears a leg brace to support the muscles that were damaged by his battle with the illness.

But George persevered and kept his faith, enrolling at St. Henry Preparatory Seminary in Belleville, Illinois, an affiliated high school with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He would eventually join the Missionary Oblates and would make his solemn vow as a member of the order. George was ordained a priest in 1963 at St. Pascal Church where his Catholic education had started as a boy. The following year he received a degree in theology from the University of Ottawa, his first of

many degrees including a doctorate in Philosophy from Tulane University and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Urbaniana University.

After spending time as a professor, George continued to serve his order when he became the Vicar General for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. For 12 years, he traveled to missions in some of the poorest regions of Africa, Latin America and Asia. In 1990 Pope John Paul II appointed George as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima, Washington. In 1996 he was appointed the ninth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon when he was installed by Pope John Paul II at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. George would serve there for less than a year before he was appointed by Pope John Paul II to the vacant See of Chicago. He was the first native Chicagoan to be appointed as the Archbishop of Chicago, which serves 2.2 million Catholics in 356 different parishes. Within the first year of his service in Chicago, George was elevated to the honor of Cardinal.

For almost 17 years Cardinal George has led his people in the Chicago Archdiocese with his unmatched intellect and warmth. At Mass yesterday, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, very aptly described George as "intelligent and articulate, courageous and curious, humble, zealous." Kurtz continued, "Like Pope Francis, we see in you a generous heart and zealous missionary spirit . . . a humble man of vision."

Today I express my admiration for Cardinal George's devotion to the Archdiocese of Chicago and the entire community, and honor his lifetime of achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Francis Cardinal George well as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination, and to thank him for his inspiring service.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST
RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gabriella Miller, a brave little girl who was taken from the world much too soon. I know Gabriella's parents are here in the House gallery and I want to express to them how sorry I am for their loss. Gabriella was a real fighter, not only for herself but for the thousands of other children across the country who are battling cancer. I'm pleased to join my colleague, MICHAEL MCCAUL, in co-chairing the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus in the House. Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting hundreds of young people like Gabriella and families like the Millers. I've heard their heartbreak and frustration, and share their commitment to finding a cure for this devastating disease. The National Institutes of Health play a critical role in this effort—conducting basic research toward finding cures, supporting clinical trials, and developing treatments for childhood cancer and other pediatric illnesses. I firmly believe that as a nation we should be investing more in pediatric research but the bill on the floor won't do that.

Today's bill purports to increase pediatric research by \$13 million per year by terminating public financing for political conventions. Assuming last year's 5 percent sequester at NIH was spread evenly across their programs, then pediatric research would have been cut by roughly \$182 million in 2013. The bill's \$13 million would return less than 10 percent of the funding to pediatric research that was lost to sequester last year. On top of that, the bill doesn't actually appropriate any funding, but instead authorizes appropriations, which does not guarantee that these funds will be available.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill isn't a sincere effort to increase funding for pediatric research and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. Since the Republican majority took office in 2011, they've racked up a dismal record on NIH, having cut its budget by total of \$4.2 billion or 13 percent when adjusted for inflation. If Republicans are really serious about pediatric research, and in fact want to put kids first, then they should work with us to replace the sequester with a balanced budget package.

LORETTA DITIRRO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Loretta DiTirro for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Loretta is an extremely passionate and persuasive individual, especially when it comes to community. She was instrumental in changing the name of the Wheat Ridge Business Association, to help give more definition to the purpose and future of the group. Loretta ensures that the Wheat Ridge business members are well informed and well connected to the community at large, and she drove the membership from 30 to 200 members. She hosts events in her home to raise money for the Feed the Future Backpack Program, giving back to the children of her community. She opened up her garden for the Inaugural Wheat Ridge Garden Tour, and recruits volunteers for the historic Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. As an influential leader and organizer, she is a valuable asset to the Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County communities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Loretta DiTirro for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EVELYN STEVENS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor Mrs. Evelyn Stevens, a member of my staff for almost seventeen years. Evelyn is retiring this year after over 34

years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evelyn began working for my predecessor, Congressman Tom Beville, in 1979 and has worked continuously since then with passion and dedication for the constituents of the current Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. It would be difficult to count the number of constituents that she has helped during her tenure with the Fourth District of Alabama.

Evelyn was married for almost 40 years to Milton "Bud" Stevens and has two daughters, Renita Rigney and Amelia Sutter. She has five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren with two more great-grandchildren soon to be born. She enjoys traveling with her daughters and takes the time to visit a different baseball stadium in the country during a trip they take every year. Evelyn is also an avid bowler, bowling every Tuesday evening with her team.

Few people can look back on their life and see that they have contributed so much to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country. Evelyn Stevens is one of those people.

On behalf of myself and all the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I can never thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to serving the people of Alabama and the United States of America.

May God bless Evelyn in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 641 for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 641: "aye" (On passage of H. Res. 441.)

COLLEEN JORGENSEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colleen Jorgensen for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Despite facing numerous public education funding cuts, Colleen found a way to launch a campaign to make Red Rocks Community College "green," resulting in reduced paper consumption, in a recycling program, and a boiler system that reduced 30% of carbon emissions. She has translated the value of mentorship into Community Learning Centers, the Gateway program, and a shadowing program for potential Principal Investigators. Colleen stays active in her greater community by serving on numerous boards and area chambers. Colleen's creativity and innovation in education has left a lasting impact on thousands of college students, hundreds of colleagues and the business community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colleen Jorgensen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, despite U.S. officials continuing to celebrate the alleged "opening" of Burma and planning projects such as bringing electricity to the entire country, we need to stop and listen to the people of Burma. The ethnic groups have a different story to tell, one which does not support U.S. agencies' narrative. Ethnic minorities are not celebrating this alleged "opening." Instead, they continue to be forced to defend themselves from offensive attacks by the Burma army and regime.

Some officials in Washington act as if democracy has suddenly infused all levels of government and all policies in Burma, including by welcoming and feting Shwe Mann, the 3rd ranking official in the "former" dictatorship who is now serving as the Speaker of the Combined House of Parliament. The people of Burma are still fighting for freedom of speech, conscience, belief, and association. Political prisoners still languish in prison, the Muslim minority has been brutally attacked by factions of the Buddhist majority with nary an outcry by Aung San Suu Kyi or other democratically elected leaders, and Kachin women and girls are still raped by soldiers bent on purifying minority bloodlines. How can a government that continues to implement policies that directly contradict democratic principles be so embraced by the international community, including by U.S. officials?

What is wrong with this picture? The Administration is supporting those in favor of removing a dictatorship in one country while embracing a brutal dictatorship in another country. How is it that in one area of the world, our government has provided training and weapons to groups working against a dictatorship—even as some members of the opposition may have direct links to Al Qaeda—while in Burma, we have turned our backs on a population that has longed for democracy, freedom, and the protection of basic rights?

These inconsistent policies are deeply disturbing. "Former" dictators who truly desired to establish a democracy would stop using forced labor in military projects; would end horrific attacks against the Kachin, Northern Shan and Taang communities; would cease rearming, rebuilding, and resupplying their bases in ethnic territories; and would discontinue using bait and switch tactics in negotiations.

In recent negotiations between the Burma Government and the ethnic groups, the Government acts as if the ethnic groups should prove that they are trustworthy in terms of any ceasefire agreement. I would strongly posit that it's the other way around: the Government of Burma must prove its trustworthiness to the ethnic groups by ending its aggression before any ceasefire occurs. The ethnic minorities have simply defended their people and states when under attacks initiated by the Burma government. It is time for those attacks to

stop, it is time for the Burma Army to withdraw from the ethnic areas, and it is time for the international community to stop indirectly facilitating the blatant racism in Burma by normalizing every relationship with the regime Burma and instead express exceptional disappointment with the failure to move forward towards honest political dialogue and true democracy.

I call on the Government of Burma to prove its commitment to democracy and peace by unconditionally and immediately ending the horrific attacks against ethnic minorities and fully withdrawing from their territories. Earn the trust of the people by showing, over the long term, that you truly have turned 180 degrees and will implement democratic principles instead of imposing a dictatorship on the population.

I call on the Obama Administration to embrace the reality in Burma. Listen to what the people who live inside Burma say they desire. They want to live in peace, but that will not happen until the Burma Government and Army stop their attacks against the ethnic groups and enact a nationwide ceasefire. The U.S. Administration needs to stop its direct and indirect support for the Burma Government and Army by discontinuing assistance until specific benchmarks are met, by delaying any Pentagon training until all attacks against minorities cease, and by ensuring the ethnic nationality groups are given a full and equal place at the table to help decide the future of their country.

To the ethnic nationalities of Burma—stand your ground. You deserve to have your rights and freedoms protected and you deserve an equal place at the table to decide the future of your country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL AND THE WORLD OF WONDERS SCIENCE PROGRAM

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty High School in Brentwood, California. Liberty High School was the recipient of the Lawrence Livermore National Security's (LLNS) Community Gift Program for the school's AP Environmental Science and Calculus Classes. These classes engage students in science through a water quality monitoring project that allows students to sample, analyze, and interpret water quality data for Marsh Creek.

I also want to recognize the World of Wonders Science Museum in Lodi, California, which also was a recipient of the LLNS Community Gift Program. This museum offers hands-on, science-based exhibits and programs to disadvantaged schools within San Joaquin County.

Engaging young people in science, technology, math, and education programs is key to ensuring that the United States remains a world leader in technology advancements and innovation. We must challenge our children intellectually and find ways to keep them interested in making our world a better place.

It is in the classroom, the home, and our community that children are inspired to learn

and explore. Liberty High School and the World of Wonders Science Museum represent what can be accomplished when all partners involved work together.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Liberty High School and the World of Wonders Science Museum for earning a competitive grant and for the work they do with children in our community.

HONORING MARTHA LOPEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Martha Lopez arrived here from Mexico City when she was 15, attended and graduated from Mamaroneck High School. She went on to get her B.A. in Sociology from Lehman College and a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University.

She worked for the Washingtonville Housing Alliance for more than 17 years as the assistant director. While there she involved herself in a variety of community activities including as a Founding Member of the Board of Directors of KEEPS, an after-school program for children in Mamaroneck, and as a Founding Member and Chair of Voz y Vida at St. Vito's Church which helps Hispanic families adjust to the United States and easing the problems of day laborers in Mamaroneck. Voz y Vida received the Martin Luther King Award from the Mamaroneck Tri-Commission Human Rights Committee in 1993.

She is also a member of the Westchester Hispanic Advisory Board, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Emelin Theater, and Co-founding the Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck and served for two years its president.

She received the Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award, for her efforts on behalf of immigrants.

In 2001 Martha was named Director for Hispanic Affairs for Westchester County, serving as a bridge between government programs and services and the Westchester Hispanic community.

In 2010 Martha oversaw the village-wide educational campaign that complied with the Federal Voting Rights Case settlement of Port Chester.

She is presently Bilingual Election Inspector Coordinator with Westchester County Board of Elections where she manages a county-wide training program for more than 200 bilingual (English-Spanish) election inspectors.

She and her husband Dennis Hanratty, Executive Director of Mount Vernon United Tenants, have two children. Louis and Jason.

Martha Lopez has compiled an extraordinary record of accomplishments for the Hispanic community and for Westchester County and I am proud to join with the Hispanic Democrats of Westchester in honoring her.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE A. MILLIN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Leslie A. Millin, Sr. a

former Director of Personnel for the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, who recently passed away after a long illness. Leslie A. Millin was a career public servant, a community activist and a man committed to our territory.

He will be remembered for his hard work and dedication to civil service and his commitment to improving the quality of life, not just for government employees, but for all Virgin Islanders.

Leslie Millin, Sr. was first appointed to Director of Personnel, by our first elected governor, the Honorable Melvin E. Evans in 1972. Under his directorship, a voluntary Health Insurance Plan was established. He continued his service during the administration of former Governor Juan Luis, and was the last Personnel Director to administer both the Government Employees Retirement System and the Personnel System of the Virgin Islands government. Under the administration of the Honorable Roy L. Schneider, he served as Director of Human Resources and Comptroller of the Department of Public Works.

Leslie Millin, Sr. came from a family for whom public service was first nature. He is the grandson of the first female Virgin Islands Senator Lucinda Millin, the son of the third elect Lieutenant Governor Henry A. Millin and the brother of sitting Virgin Islands senator Janet Millin Young and the father of current Commissioner of Property and Procurement Lynn Millin Maduro.

As we remember Leslie Millin, Sr.'s example of public service, I offer my condolences to his wife, Daisy-Mae, his sister, Senator Janet Millin Young, his children, to include Commissioner Lynn Millin Maduro and his many other relatives, friends and colleagues who are all saddened by his passing. On behalf of my family and staff, I extend my sympathies. May he rest in peace.

HONORING CHIEF MARK McCORMICK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Mark McCormick, who is retiring after more than 20 years of service with the Santa Rosa Fire Department.

Mark has been a member of the Santa Rosa Fire Department for more than 20 years, during which time he has served our community in a number of capacities. He has served as a Firefighter, Fire Captain, Fire Inspector as well as the Department's Deputy Fire Chief and City Fire Marshal. Mr. McCormick was appointed Fire Chief on September 1st, 2011.

His long and storied career began 32 years ago when he served his country in the United States Air Force in Anchorage, Alaska. After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, he began his post-military career in firefighting with both the City of Corona and the Orange County Fire Departments prior to moving to Santa Rosa in 1991.

During his tenure with the SRFD Mark saw many successes, including the expansion of the department's service territory with the construction of Fire Station-10 and Station-11. In

addition, Mr. McCormick was instrumental in the development of a funding plan for the relocation of Fire Station-5 to Fountaingrove Parkway, which is within a significant Wildland Urban Interface fire zone within the City. Mark also oversaw the implementation of a residential sprinkler ordinance as well as major improvements in public safety communications ensuring that all police and fire communications functioned in all buildings, large and small. These efforts are first hand proof that Chief McCormick's top priority was always the safety of his community.

In addition to his work as a public servant, Mark is a former President of the Santa Rosa Firefighters, IAFF Local 1401 where he served on their Executive Board for eight years. In 2003, Mark was honored by labor and management as the Santa Rosa Firefighter of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Mark McCormick has spent more than two decades serving his country and community. It is appropriate that we honor him today for his public service and to wish him well upon his retirement.

HONORING REV. EDWARD
MULRAINE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Houses of Worship in the United States have played a major role in our communities, offering solace, support, and sustenance, both physical and moral, to all. In Mount Vernon, the Unity Baptist Tabernacle, under the guidance of the Rev. Edward Mulrine fulfills all those roles, and today we are celebrating Rev. Mulrine's tenth Pastoral Anniversary in guiding the membership of his church.

Rev. Mulrine has accomplished much in that time to help his Church, his Ministry and his Community.

He established a Men's Fellowship Choir, a Prayer Ministry, a Senior Ministry, and the Gospel Pearls. He expanded the Church's Ministry through radio station WVOV and the Internet. He instituted Women as Deacons and Unity Baptist Tabernacle saw its first Women Deacons in 2011. Unity Tabernacle now teaches Weekly Bible Study and has a Drama Ministry and a Catering Ministry.

More pragmatically Rev. Mulrine raised the funds for a new computer center which now has 14 brand new computers, installed new air conditioning in the Dining Hall, painted the sanctuary and redid the Church roof, and is paying off the \$300,000 mortgage.

Beyond his church and ministry, Rev. Mulrine has aided his community by getting pedestrian crossing light on local streets, marching against violence, and protesting cuts to Day Care and Mount Vernon Hospital. He established the Annual Church Trip and Fellowship to South Carolina, started Home Coming after Summer Break, and fought for funds for the South Street Park.

Rev. Mulrine, and all of Mount Vernon, today celebrate his tenth anniversary as Minister of the Unity Baptist Tabernacle. I am proud to join in this celebration of a man who has made a great difference in his Church, his Ministry and his Community.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT NANCY
THURNAUER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer who is set to retire from the Coventry Police Department at the end of December 2013. Affectionately known as Officer Nancy, she has spent the last thirty-two years serving the Town of Coventry.

Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer began her career with the Coventry Police Department on September 14, 1981 as a dispatcher. She became a sworn officer in August 1985 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in February of 1998. She often worked with children, and spent a number of years teaching D.A.R.E. in the Coventry School system. Frequently praised for her compassion for others, Officer Nancy was beloved by many in Coventry. She received numerous commendations and heartfelt letters of gratitude from those she had helped.

In 2008, Lieutenant Thurnauer played a crucial role in negotiating the surrender and apprehension of an armed assailant who had just committed a murder and was holding a child, refusing to surrender. Her courage and skill earned her the Department's Police Service Cross.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring the career of Lieutenant Nancy Thurnauer. I wish her the best of luck with all her future endeavors. I have no doubt that she will remain an active member of her community in Coventry.

ACADIANA HIGH SCHOOL
WRECKIN' RAMS CROWNED
STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams football team for recently being crowned Class 5A state champions by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association on December 14, 2013, in New Orleans. This team put on a show for the ages as it amassed a state finals rushing record of 634 yards night en route to its 77-41 win over the Parkway High Panthers in the state championship game. The 77 points by the Rams was a Class 5A record, including 42 points in the first half.

The game was a shootout with teams trading possessions frequently. Acadiana High School attributed its success to the veer offense which combined a strong offensive line with a formidable ground game. Evidenced by the fact four of the team's running backs gained over 140 yards under the bright lights of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, the offensive scheme was a success.

This was Acadiana High School's third state championship. I'd like to congratulate Coach Ted Davidson, finals' Most Outstanding Player Edward Cormier, and the entire Wreckin'

Rams team on their victory. This team made its community proud by the way it simply dominated its competition en route to becoming state champions.

I look forward to next year's football season and wish the Wreckin' Rams team good luck in defending its crown.

BARBARA SCRIPPS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Barbara Scripps for her outstanding service to our community.

In addition to running her own accounting firm in Evergreen for over twenty years, Barbara never hesitates to take the role of the leader on multiple non-profit boards, creating a trajectory to get things done. With her participation, community boards have undergone positive, significant financial changes and growth. As current president of the Evergreen Rotary Club she is helping to implement a fundraising strategy transition. She is a long-serving board member of both Evergreen Country Day School and Mt. Evans Hospice, and she saw the Center for Arts Evergreen through its creation of a visual arts center, and continues to serve on that board. The Colorado CPA Society recognized Barbara with an award as a "CPA Making A Difference", based on her strong support for her community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Barbara Scripps for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING SUSAN SOBEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Susan Sobel, the District Manager of the Yonkers Field Office of the Social Security Administration is retiring after 35 years of service to the people on the New York area.

Susan began her career in November 1977 as a claims representative trainee in the Hunts Point Field Office and in 1982, she was promoted to operations supervisor in the East Bronx Field Office. In 1988, she participated in the New York Region Staff Development Program as a field services specialist in the New York Regional Office.

Over the years, Susan held positions of increasing responsibility, including social insurance program analyst in the New York Office of the Regional Commissioner and Assistant District manager in the Yonkers Field Office. In September 2002, she received a temporary promotion to District Manager of the White Plains office and, in June 2003, she was named District Manager of the Yonkers Field office.

Throughout her career, Susan received numerous awards, including a Commissioner's

Citation team award in 2001 and Deputy Commissioner's Citations in 2004 and 2005.

She was noted for her attention to detail and her dedication to the Social Security Administration and its mission. I worked with her on several occasions and was impressed by her ability and her attention to detail. I want to personally thank her for her years of dedicated service.

Susan and her husband Ron, who is also retiring from the SSA, plan to spend time celebrating family and friendships, travelling and exploring. I wish them the very best in their retirement years.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Section 401 creates a new category of employee called a "Further Revised Annuity Employee" and would require Further Revised Annuity Employees to contribute additional amounts into the CRSDF. It is the intent of Congress for OPM to create a new normal cost for the Further Revised Annuity Employees, and to ensure that the retirement plan not be underfunded.

Additionally, it is the intent that for the new Further Revised Annuity Employee Plan that the only determinant of whether an individual is a FERS employee or Member, as opposed to a FERS Revised Annuity Employee or FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee, is through application of the FERS Revised Annuity Employee test. And that the new Further Revised Annuity Employee test only differentiates between FERS Revised Annuity Employee coverage and new FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee coverage.

VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES STATE 1A CROWN

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vermilion Catholic High School Screamin' Eagles of Abbeville for recently winning Louisiana's Class 1A state championship over the Saint Frederick Catholic High School Warriors on December 14, 2013, in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. With a convincing 63-18 win, there was no doubt which team deserved to be crowned state champions.

The Vermilion Screamin' Eagles team capped off its perfect 10-0 season with an offensive display that kept fans on the edge of their seats. After trailing 3-0 early in the game, the Screamin' Eagles answered by scoring 42 of the next 49 points. It was too much for Saint Frederick to overcome as Vermilion continued its scoring barrage on offense and special teams while its defense refused to give the Warriors an opening.

Vermilion used a balanced attack as it passed for 269 yards while rushing for another 216 yards. Recording 16 first downs was key to establishing a new Class 1A championship record for most points in a game.

Congratulations to Coach Russell Kuhns and his team as this state championship comes on the ten year anniversary of the Class 1A crown Vermilion won in 2003.

I look forward to next year's football season and wish the Screamin' Eagles team good luck in defending its crown.

ANN DEMERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ann Demers for her outstanding service to our community.

As a Special Needs teacher in Jefferson County Ann always gave above and beyond. Eventually becoming a school psychologist, she led training for the Second Step Curriculum and was a member of the Crisis Response Team during the Columbine High School tragedy. Ann is involved in her neighborhood, church, and family, organizing community events and service activities. She created a church community service group known as the Red Tent Ladies, and once she started on the Ralston House Board they saw exponential growth. Her spirit and dedication are truly inspiring.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ann Demers for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of final passage of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I commend Chairman McKEON, Chairman LEVIN, Ranking Member SMITH, and Ranking Member INHOFE for crafting a bipartisan bill that both strengthens the security of our nation and provides for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform and their civilian colleagues.

While not perfect, today's compromise legislation makes many key improvements over the Defense Authorization bill that the House voted on earlier this year. I am particularly encouraged that the final agreement we voted on today includes \$80.7 billion in funding for overseas contingency operations (OCO), which is in line with the Pentagon's request. This is an important change from the \$85.8 billion that was included in the House-passed authorization in June. Today's bill provides sufficient funds to fully meet the President's FY 2014 request for the war in Afghanistan while ensuring that the overseas contingency operations

account will not become a slush fund for unrequested defense spending.

The final agreement also eases restrictions on the ability of DoD to transfer Guantanamo detainees and takes an important step in addressing our indefinite detention policy there. In particular, I am pleased that this bill drops a provision that would have barred the use of funds to transfer prisoners to Yemen and authorizes the Pentagon to transfer detainees to other foreign countries under certain conditions. More needs to be done when addressing our indefinite detention policy, but provisions such as these represent significant progress.

I am also encouraged by the changes this bill makes with regards to how the military responds to sexual assault cases. It adopts Senate language to bar individuals from joining the military if they have been convicted of a sex-related offense; it imposes a minimum sentence of dishonorable discharge or dismissal on those found guilty; and it prohibits commanders from dismissing a court martial finding or reducing the offense level of guilty findings.

Finally, the compromise bill does make some progress on allowing the Department of Defense to execute the New START Treaty. Specifically, it allows DoD to begin planning and preparation for implementing the force structure to meet the required limits of the New START Treaty. However, it still goes too far in limiting the President's ability to fully implement the treaty and set the country's nuclear policy.

I am also disappointed that this legislation authorizes the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the Pentagon continues to say is unnecessary. This provision disregards the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and seeks to tie the President's hands in determining military requirements in other parts of the world. This bill also contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and continues to fund unrequested weapons systems and military aircraft, including the M1A2 Abrams tank, the C-130 AMP, and the UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter.

Despite these reservations, this compromise legislation is a marked improvement over the bill the House passed earlier this year. It contains many important provisions that will strengthen our national security while also providing for our troops and their families.

HONORING AUDREY SMITH- JOHNSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Smith-Johnson was born in Yonkers and attended Yonkers Public Schools, and graduated from Tefft Business School. As a high school student, she volunteered at the Yonkers YWCA and was a Candy Striper at St Joseph Hospital. But it was while working various positions at a temp agency that she found her passion in real estate. She received her Real Estate Certificate and has been working in that field for 28 years.

But she has another calling, and that is as a member of her community. In July, 2005,

she joined Community Sunset Temple #1132, Daughters of Elks, IBPOE Elks of the World. She was promptly elected as Doorkeeper and in 2006 she was elected as the Treasurer. There she has embraced in all facets of Elksdom. Some of the positions she holds are: Assistant Vice Loyal Daughter of Unity Past Daughter Rulers Council (Westchester & Rockland), she is a member of the New York State Daughters of Elks—Royal Court Department, Treasurer/Financial Secretary of the Past State President Circle of Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. This year she is the Chairperson of the Mid-Winter Conference for The New York State IBPOE of W.

She also belongs to the Yonkers African-American Heritage Committee, a not-for-profit community based organization that partners with several other such organizations, such as: Sister To Sister, YMCA, YWCA and The Yonkers Public Library. Mrs. Johnson joined the YAAHC in 2005, and was named Financial Secretary, a job she has kept, along with several appointed positions such as: Chairperson-Nominating Committee, Joint-Chair-Scholarship Committee and Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

In May 2009, Senior Center #9, located at Terrace City Lodge #1499 appointed her Communication/Publicity Director.

She and her husband, John (Worshipful Master of James H. Farrell #34, PH) have been married for 31 years. They have two children, Mrs. LaTasha Pagan and John, Jr., and a granddaughter Karissma. She is also a mother and grandmother to her extended family—Ms. Capricia McClellan and her children and her grandchildren.

I am proud to join the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation in honoring Audrey Smith-Johnson as Woman of the Year for her many contributions to her community.

HONORING THE MARIA
KONOPNICKA POLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL OF CHICAGO AND OAK
LAWN, ILLINOIS ON ITS 40TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School in Chicago and Oak Lawn, Illinois. This year the school will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Chicagoland is home to the largest population of people of Polish descent living outside of Poland. The Polish Language School, named for the great Polish poet, novelist, and activist, Maria Konopnicka, serves this population by offering kindergarten through high school students the opportunity to connect with and explore their Polish heritage. For forty years the school has excelled in teaching its students Polish language, history, and culture. Thousands of children have learned about Polish cultural heritage as well as the role Poles play in the United States and the world community, now and in the future. With its emphasis on civic responsibility, the school shapes students dedicated to supporting and improving Chicago's communities, and I am proud to have it in my district.

While the school stresses the importance of its students, the community surrounding the school appreciates the hard work and dedication of all the staff at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School. Parents and students understand the school's success is thanks to the unceasing devotion of teachers and administrative staff who work relentlessly for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding faculties and students, both past and present, at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School, and congratulating them on this special 40th anniversary. May the school continue to exhibit excellence in teaching students about Polish cultural heritage and language for years to come.

HONORING THE BEAR CREEK BOYS
SOCCER TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 Bear Creek High School boys soccer team. On November 23, the Bear Creek Grizzlies won the 1B/2B state championship, ending their impressive season with a record of 21–2–0. I congratulate them on this impressive achievement.

This championship victory was especially fulfilling for Bear Creek High School because it settled a rivalry between them and Grace Academy. The Grizzlies' only two losses during the season were to Grace Academy, with both of those games ending in 0–0 draws and decided by penalty kicks. Tied 0–0 at halftime, the Grizzlies would not let history repeat again, and they came together to win the state championship game by a score of 2–0.

I would like to give special recognition to Jesse Leuenberger and Nathan Sim who scored the two goals of the state final. Goalkeeper Blake Denniston also played a pivotal role in the final game, earning a shutout in the championship game.

The Grizzlies' defense racked up 16 shutouts this season and the offense outscored its opponents by 87–7.

The Grizzlies' impressive record this season is also a testament to the team's high level of coaching. Coach Chad Pohlman provided the boys with encouragement and training necessary to achieve this notable feat.

Again, I congratulate the Bear Creek boys soccer team on all of their success. Their accomplishments and success are hard-earned and well-deserved.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELA
SANFILIPPO AND J.J. BARTLETT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards.

In late 1994, a group of people got together and formed an organization called the Massa-

chusetts Fishermen's Partnership. The name was fitting, as it truly has been an organization or partnership of as many as eighteen distinct fishing organizations from throughout the state. The group's founders soon recognized the strong need for comprehensive health care for fishermen and their families.

One of the original founding members of the MFP and one of this year's award recipients is Mrs. Angela Sanfilippo. Ms. Sanfilippo is well known throughout the industry. For thirty-seven years she has been a constant crusader for the fishermen of Gloucester in her role as the President of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association. She has battled to prevent the drilling for oil on Georges Bank and to keep The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary open to fishing, both commercial and recreational. Her many years of dedicated service to the local fishing industry have been invaluable to its success.

This year's second recipient of the "Friend of the Fishing Industry Award" was Mr. J.J. Bartlett. For twenty years he has served as the focal point of the "Fishing Partnership's Health Plan" and has worked tirelessly on creating and providing affordable, comprehensive health care for fishing industry families. In 2008 the Boston Business Journal named him a "40 under 40" honoree, and in 2009 he testified on rural health issues and hard to reach populations at the request of the White House Office of Health Reform. The Fishing Partnership under the guidance of Mr. Bartlett now provides access to professional counseling, assistance with health insurance applications, and offering Safety at Sea Training. The Fishing Partnership has now become the Human Resource Department for the Massachusetts fishing community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service to the local Massachusetts fishing industry.

MICHELLE CLAYMORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle Claymore for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Michelle Claymore's enthusiasm for Jefferson County's economic vitality is both evident and contagious. She helped set in motion the AddOne campaign, improving the economy one job at a time, and has attracted, expanded and retained employment through her role as the Vice President of the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation for the past 18 years. Michelle's innovative business incentive structure was instrumental in attracting the Coleman Company's corporate headquarters to relocate to Jefferson County in 2011. Understanding the importance of professional development, she started and runs the first nationally accredited economic development training program in Colorado. The program has trained over 200 students so far. Her passion for the county, its businesses and its citizens knows no bounds.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Claymore for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO FORT HILL HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Todd Appel and the Fort Hill High School football team of Cumberland, Maryland, who won the Maryland Class 1A State football championship on Saturday, December 7th.

With a 25–0 victory over Douglass High School, the Fort Hill Sentinels capped off a perfect 14–0 season. This is Fort Hill's third state football championship in their school's history and the first since 1997. Throughout the 2013 regular season and playoffs, the Sentinels dominated their opponents. In the playoffs, competing against the best teams in the state, the Sentinels outscored their opponents by an impressive 162–13 margin.

In his sixth year as head coach, Coach Appel has compiled a 66–11 record. Throughout this success, Coach Appel has proven to be not just a great coach, but a trusted mentor to many young adults in Allegany County. Thanks to his leadership, Fort Hill student-athletes have excelled both on the field and in the classroom. I wish the Fort Hill Sentinels the best of luck next season as they defend their title.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

HONORING RONALD SOBEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Sobel, Area Director for Area I, is retiring from the Social Security Administration (SSA) after more than forty-two years of helping people.

Ron began his career in August 1971 as a claims representative in the East New York, Brooklyn field office and in 1974 was promoted to operations supervisor in another Brooklyn office, later transferring to the North Bronx.

Over the years, Ron was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility, including operations officer in Jackson Heights, Queens, labor relations specialist in the Office of the Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Budget, and Assistant District Manager in the White Plains and East Bronx, Field offices.

In 1993, Ron was named District Manager of the South Bronx Field Office and in 2009 he was promoted to his current position of Area Director for Area I.

Ron was an active member of the New York Region Management Society for thirty-seven years, serving as its President for four years. Throughout his career, Ron has received numerous awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Citation team award in 2007, individual and team Commissioner's Citations in 2007 and 2001, and a Deputy Commissioner's Citation team award in 2004.

Ron's retirement plans include enjoying time with his family, including a new granddaughter, and friends. He and his wife Susan will explore New York City, vacation in Florida, visit Europe, and travel to wherever the road leads them.

I want to thank Ron for his many years of service to the people of New York City in one of our vital governmental agencies. The help he brought to them will live on for years.